

America who every day protect all of our lives.

We are doing that in Washington, and I would just ask this country to come together in this time of national sorrow and allow us to all more fully appreciate the public safety heroes and role models in America who truly are the best that America has to offer.

IN HONOR OF DETECTIVE JOHN M. GIBSON AND OFFICER J.J. CHESTNUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, as a representative of the people of the Third Congressional District of Maryland, I rise today to speak in honor of Detective John M. Gibson and Officer J.J. Chestnut of the Capitol Hill Police.

These last few days here on Capitol Hill have been somber ones and many of us have been given to thoughts of the abruptness of life; how one minute you can accept the greeting of an officer as you walk to work and the next you learn that you will never hear those words again, that he has been slain in a heroic stand to save your life and the lives of your coworkers and hundreds of strangers.

These are sad times, Mr. Speaker. Yet we should not, we cannot, allow the sadness to overwhelm the message of the lives of Officers Chestnut and Gibson. There is a message rooted in the ideas of democracy and duty. Democracy has a price. In a day and age when life for so many of us is so good, some of us may have forgotten that.

Tragically, the Chestnut and Gibson families know that the price for their father and husband was life itself. But it was their sense of duty, their commitment to protecting this building that stands for democracy and the people in it, that should force all of us to consider our own duty to democracy.

It is said that Robert E. Lee once wrote to his son, and I quote: "Duty, then, is the sublimest word of our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more, you should never wish to do less."

I wish to offer my condolences to the Chestnut and Gibson families. I want to tell them that the lives of these great men and what they did for me, my colleagues, and all America last Friday will always be remembered and honored, but also remembered and honored for what it meant to the twin ideals of democracy and duty.

I want them to know that even if Officers Gibson and Chestnut had never heard these words from General Lee, they lived them, nonetheless. These two men could not have done more for me, and I hope to use their example to never wish to do less.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, as the representative of the Third District of Virginia, I rise to add my voice to the chorus of supporters of families and friends of Special Agent John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut in these painful hours.

"Senseless" is the word that keeps coming back to me as I think of the loss to the families and to our community of the lives and contributions of these two fine public servants. The only thing that was not senseless about the tragedy was their bravery and sense of duty in sacrificing their own lives to protect the lives of others and to keep the people's House open to the public.

Any loss of life as a result of tragedy is painful to the entire community, but when it comes as a result of a senseless tragedy such as this, we also feel anger, disgust and bewilderment over the loss of their lives and the suffering brought upon their families, friends, and our Nation as a result of a senseless act. No words are ever adequate under these circumstances. Yet I wish to join the long line of my colleagues in Congress to express my deep sorrow and sympathy to the families of these brave officers and to try to find a way to come to grips with this tragedy in our midst.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate and honor the lives and contributions of Special Agent John Gibson and Officer J.J. Chestnut to this Congress and to this community and to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRAVERY OF DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON AND OFFICER J.J. CHESTNUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, shots rang out in the Halls of this Capitol, and today we come together to remember two officers and the tragedy that has befallen all of us. Even in the midst of tragedy, we must reflect on the fact that these two men were defending this Capitol, the Capitol which is a symbol of freedom around the world. These two men not only gave their lives in the line of duty and in order to protect innocent citizens, but also to protect freedom.

Throughout the history of this Nation, there have been several demonstrations perpetrated on the walls of this Capitol in a way to scar the symbol of freedom. In each instance we have reached within us to find the strength to go on because we realize that which is so precious must continue.

Officers Gibson and Chestnut have made the ultimate sacrifice for us, and they would want us to continue on, to take up their post and to continue to preserve this Democratic institution. We as a nation owe it to them to do just that.

Although they are not here anymore with us, we remember them as the he-

roes they are. There is no way to fill the void they have left in their families. I can only say to the families of Officers Gibson and Chestnut, may not a month, not a week, not even a day go by that you and we do not forget that these two men will always be our heroes in the truest sense of the word.

As the light on top of the Capitol burns bright at night, may it be a constant reminder of our freedom and our fallen heroes. May that light always shine bright for the memories of Officers Gibson and Chestnut, because they paid the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the principles of this country and for which that light burns so bright.

We must continue to hear the sound of freedom that rang out Friday afternoon and every day here, not the sound of one cowardly, solitary enemy of freedom. Let freedom ring in our ears, and their memories in our hearts, as we stand here in the people's Chamber and as we also stand in the rotunda of the Capitol Building itself, which, in its majesty, fairly reaches up to the heavens, just as the souls of these two brave officers rose Friday to heaven to join our Lord God in eternal bliss.

In God they trust, and as the words raised in marble behind me state, In God We Trust, Now and Forever.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF OFFICER JACOB CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

(Mr. DAVIS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the tragic loss of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson serve as a painful reminder that every day the men and women of the United States Capitol Police put their lives on the line, prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson were called upon to make that sacrifice without any second thought. They simply did that to protect others.

So much of what is said and done in these Halls is a symbol for communities across the Nation. Sadly, the service and sacrifice of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson represent the 91 law enforcement officers who have given their lives just this year alone in the United States. Three of these slain officers served in the community I represent, the city of Tampa in Hillsborough County.

When we lost Police Detectives Randy Bell, Ricky Childers and Trooper James Brad Crooks, it dug a hole in our heart and took our breath away. That tragedy also brought our community closer together, and it deepened our respect and appreciation for the men and women who serve as law enforcement officers and their families as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a poem that brought comfort to our community at that time of tragedy. It was read at the funeral of the slain officers